

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1626
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USNMR SHAPE BEL
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 3120

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC
USCINCEUR FOR POLAD
USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PORG, CY, TU, UN
SUBJECT: IMPLICATIONS OF GOC REJECTION OF TURKISH PROPOSALS FOR
RESUMPTION OF TALKS

REF: NICOSIA 1060

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1. WHILE WE AGREE WITH MUCH OF THE REASONING IN REFTEL, WE
NOTE THAT THE DIFFICULTY OF CALLING FOR RESUMPTION OF TALKS
IS ONLY HALF OF THE PROBLEM FOR THE UNSYG. AND IN TERMS OF
U.SM INTERESTS, IT MAY BE LESS SIGNIFICANT THAN THE OTHER HALF,
WHICH IS THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT RESUMING THE TALKS.

2. AS WE SEE IT, THERE IS A STRONG U.S. INTEREST IN MAINTAINING

AND MAKING THE MOST OF THE TURKISH "PEACE OFFENSIVE", WHICH THE U.S. DID A GREAT DEAL TO STIMULATE AND WHICH REACHED A CROSS ROADS WITH THE PRESENTATION OF THE CYPRUS PROPOSALS. THE TURKS PREPARED AND PRESENTED THEIR NEGOTIATING PROPOSALS WITH THE CLEAR EXPECTATION THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WOULD FIND ANY PROPOSALS UNACCEPTABLE, BUT WITH THE BELIEF ALSO THAT THEY WOULD END UP IN A NEGOTIATING SITUATION. THEY NOW EXPECT THE UNSYG -- WITH OUR SUPPORT -- TO GET THE GREEK CYPRIOTS TO THE TABLE. FAILURE TO HOLD TALKS NOW COULD HAVE A VERY UNFORTUNATE EFFECT IN SOURING AND DISCOURAGING THE THINKING BEHIND THE TURKS' DRIVE FOR NEGOTIATIONS. POSTPONING THE TALKS UNTIL AFTER THE CONGRESSIONAL DECISION ON THE EMBARGO WOULD IN NO WAY BE LIKELY TO IMPROVE THE TURKISH PROPOSALS, AND WOULD RUN A SERIOUS RISK OF FORFEITING THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY THE TURKS' CURRENT INTEREST IN NEGOTIATING A SETTLEMENT. IF THE TALKS ARE NOT HELD NOW, IT MAY BE YEARS BEFORE TURKEY'S POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES AGAIN PRODUCE SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY.

3. HOLDING NEGOTIATIONS WHILE CONGRESS CONSIDERS THE EMBARGO ISSUE IS HARDLY AN OPTIMUM FORMULA FOR REACHING A SOLUTION, BUT IT MAY NOT BE THE WORST EITHER. WHILE PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT MIGHT TEND TO FAVOR THE TURKISH SIDE ON THE EMBARGO QUESTION (AT THE SAME TIME THAT IT WOULD MEET A BASIC, VITAL CYPRIOT INTEREST), THE FORMAT OF NEGOTIATIONS-AS-PROPAGANDA-CONTEST WOULD GIVE BOTH SIDES

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AN EQUALLY GOOD CHANCE AT SCORING POINTS WITH CONGRESS, WOULD PUT BOTH ON STAGE BEFORE A CRITICAL AUDIENCE, AND THUS WOULD EXPOSE BOTH TO POTENTIALLY POSITIVE INFLUENCES.
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